

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00462 110753Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 EB-07

AID-05 SAM-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /098 W

----- 020696

R 101653Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2206

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO DA

SUBJ: MPLA REPS VISIT TO DENMARK

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 0436; B) STATE 030983

SUMMARY: DANISH OFFICIALS SAY THEY WILL HOLD THE LINE ON
RECOGNITION OF MPLA DESPITE FACT THAT MPLA DELEGATES HAVE
RECEIVED ENDORSEMENT OF DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) AND ARE
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PAGE 02 COPENH 00462 110753Z

SEEING FONMIN K.B. ANDERSEN TODAY. END SUMMARY.

1. POL COUNS CALLED ON CHIEF OF MFA'S THIRD OFFICE (WHICH INCLUDES AFRICA), BENT HAAKONSEN, THIS MORNING (FEBRUARY 10) TO PURSUE DISCUSSION BEGUN YESTERDAY (REF A). HAAKONSEN HAD NOT SEEN MORNING NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) PRESIDENT THOMAS NIELSEN HAD CALLED FOR DENMARK'S RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA. HAAKONSEN SAID THAT HE WAS SURE SUCH A CALL WOULD NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON DANISH FOREIGN POLICY. HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT U.S. POLICY ON ANGOLA REMAINED UNCHANGED (REF B). HAAKONSEN SAID THAT WHEN ANDERSEN RECEIVED THE MPLA DUO THIS AFTERNOON, HE WOULD RE-EMPHASIZE THAT HE IS RECEIVING THEM AS THE LEADER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THAT THIS IN NO WAY CONSTITUTED DANISH RECOGNITION.

2. HAAKONSEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT NONETHELESS APPEARED OBVIOUS THAT THE MPLA IS BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MILITARILY SUPPRESSING FNLA AND UNITA FORCES IN ANGOLA. THE DANES THINK THAT THE FALL OF HUAMBO PRESUMABLY MEANS THE DE FACTO END OF ORGANIZED UNITA RESISTENCE. HAAKONSEN ACKNOWLEDGED, IN RESPONSE TO POL COUNS' OBSERVATION, THAT UNITA AND PERHAPS THE FNLA MIGHT HAVE THE CAPACITY FOR MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THE MPLA TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER ALL OF ANGOLA FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. FOR DENMARK, HAAKONSEN COMMENTED, THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION WILL TURN ON "EFFECTIVE CONTROL". HE ALSO NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH LIBERATION GROUPS IN FORMER PORTUGUESE AFRICA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND, ONCE THE ISSUE OF "EFFECTIVE CONTROL" IS RESOLVED, ANDERSEN WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO WHATEVER ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IS IN CONTROL. HAAKONSEN REPEATED HIS EARLIER ASSURANCES THAT BEFORE DENMARK ACTED, IT WOULD CONSULT WITH ITS EC AND NORDIC PARTNERS.

4. ON SAME ITEM, AKTUEL (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC) TODAY REPORTED THAT INFLUENTIAL DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION

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PAGE 03 COPENH 00462 110753Z

(LO) CALLS FOR DANISH RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA. LO CHAIRMAN THOMAS NIESEN SAYS, "WE STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH OUR COMRADES OF THE MPLA. I WILL DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN."

5. AT THE SAME TIME, POLITIKEN (LEFT OF CENTER) SAID EDITORIALY, "SECRETARY GENERAL OF STRONGEST LIBERATION

MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA, MPLA, HAS BEEN IN COPENHAGEN IN ORDER TO PERSUADE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE HIS ADMINISTRATION AS GOVERNMENT OF INDEPENDENT ANGOLA....IT IS DANISH PRACTICE THAT WE EXTEND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO GOVERNMENTS WHICH CONTROL THEIR OWN COUNTRIES, NO MATTER WHETHER WE LIKE SUCH GOVERNMENTS....THEREFORE, RECOGNITION OF MPLA SHOULD WAIT SOME TIME. IT IS CLEAR THAT MPLA STILL DOES NOT CONTROL ALL OF ANGOLA".

6. LATER DCM DISCUSSED ANGOLA WITH AMBASSADOR BIERRING, MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR. BIERRING REITERATED WHAT HAAKONSEN TOLD POL COUNS, I.E., THAT DANES HAD NO INTENTION OF RECOGNIZING MPLA. DCM STRESSED THAT DANISH RECOGNITION OF MPLA WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY USG.

7. COMMENT: BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE DANGER OF DENMARK BEING SEDUCED BY MPLA REPS AT THIS TIME, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY WERE ALSO REBUFFED BY SWEDEN. NEVERTHELESS, ONCE CERTAIN COUNTRIES BEGIN TO JUMP ON MPLA BANDWAGON, DENMARK WILL NOT WISH TO BE LEFT BEHIND.
DEAN

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